

## REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 24-26, 30-32, 38-40, 43, 44, 46, 51, 64-66, 68, 69, 74, 79, and 80 are pending in this application, with Claims 24, 46, and 64 being independent.

Claims 24-26, 32, 39, 43, 46, 51, 64-66, 74, and 79 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 24-26, 30-32, 38-40, 43, 44, 46, 51, 64-66, 74, 79 and 80 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that one skilled in the art would readily comprehend the meaning of the claims. Nevertheless, the claims have been amended in view of the Examiner's comments. In particular, "electronic content information" has been amended to --electronic information-- to address the Examiner's objection regarding the definition of content, and "attached to" has been amended to --provided via a network along with-- to address the Examiner's objection regarding the meaning of "attached." Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested in view of these amendments.

Claims 24-26, 30-32, 38-40, 43, 44, 46, 51, 64-66, 74, 79, and 80 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,301,881 (Fukatsu). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 24, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of inputting price information provided via a network along with electronic information by an information provider terminal, the price information indicating a charge for use of the electronic content information, and judging a use permission of the electronic information in accordance with input money information and the price information. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least these features.


Fukatsu discloses a POS (point of sale) system that, as shown in Fig. 15, includes a mainframe computer 155, a cash register 100, and a host computer 159. The cash register is connected to each of the computers 155 and 159. The function of the disclosed system is cash management of sales transactions at, for example, department stores, supermarkets, and the like. In the system disclosed in Fukatsu, electronic information is not provided via a network by an information provider terminal, and price information indicating a charge for use of electronic information is not provided via a network along with the electronic information. Instead, in Fukatsu, the main frame computer 155 stores and manages sales data, such as article names and prices, transmitted *from* the cash register 100. Col. 15, lns. 10-12. The host computer 159 is the computer of a credit card company. Information about a payment amount is transmitted from the cash register 100 to the host computer 159. Col. 16, lns. 42-50. However, in no case does Fukatsu disclose or suggest that price information is provided via a network along with electronic information, where the price information indicates a charge for use of the electronic information, or that judging a use permission for the electronic information is performed using price information provided via a network and input money information.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in independent Claim 24 is patentable over the prior art. Independent Claims 46 and 64 recite similar features and are believed patentable for reasons similar to Claim 24. The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the claims they depend from, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant  
Brian L. Klock  
Registration No. 36,570

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200  
BLK/lmj/lip

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